

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE/BLACKPOOL

Mr Heffer calls attack on NEC members 'new McCarthyism'

From George Clark Political Correspondent

Mr Eric Heffer, former Minister of State for Industry, was given a loud ovation at Blackpool yesterday when he described as a modern example of McCarthyism a statement by the Social Democratic Alliance in support of Mr Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development. The Labour Party conference opens in Blackpool today.

There seems little doubt that Mr Heffer was reflecting the views of the *Midstrong Tribune* group of MPs when he told a pre-conference questions session that Mr Prentice and his supporters were attempting to achieve "a system of thought control, or at least a system of thought control, like the McCarthy business in America".

The alliance statement, which was circulated in Blackpool yesterday in connection with a meeting addressed by Mr Prentice, said that the party of a recent speech at Newham, "amid disgraceful scenes of disorder", by Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, in which the latter "stressed the threat to the moderates and to the party which the extremists in our midst now represented".

The alliance questioned "whether there is not also a major threat to our traditional democratic values from nearer the top of the party" and said it had instituted a survey to discover the validity of recent remarks by Mr Paul Rose, MP for Manchester, Blackley, on the same subject.

The statement named members of the National Executive Council who, it said, had shown sympathy with the Communist party and the "east European dictatorships" by writing for the *Morning Star* or *Labour Monthly*, or by friendly visits to east European countries or broadcasts on Moscow Radio.

Mr Heffer said that, according to the alliance, because he and other members of the *Tribune* group had written in certain newspapers, including the *Morning Star*, they were apparently wicked people.

"If you know someone, in spite of the same platform of someone you know, no matter whether you think totally contrary to their ideas, you are apparently one of them because you have been in association with them", he said. That kind of campaign must be rooted out. "No McCarthyism in the Labour Party", he declared to loud applause.

The alliance statement said that members of the NEC were showing their willingness to give aid and comfort to those who support or sponsor an ideology alien to and indeed the enemy of our democratic socialist traditions.

Among the members named in the statement are Mr Frank Ainsworth, MP for Salford, East; Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment; Mr John Forrester, MP for Salford, North; Mr Judith Hart, MP for Lancashire; Mr Ronald Hogg, MP for Salford, South; Mr Lena Jeger, MP for Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South; Mr Alex Kitson, of the Transport and General Workers' Union; Mr Daniel M. Jones, leader of the boiler-makers union; Miss Joan Maynard, MP for Sheffield, Brightside; Mr Ian Mikardo, MP for Tower Hamlets; Mrs Renee Short, MP for Wolverhampton, North-east; and Mr Sidney Webb, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The alliance statement said that in future the group would produce similar analyses of the trade union leaderships and the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham, and chairman of the *Tribune* group's economic study com-



Mr and Mrs Wilson leaving a church service at Blackpool yesterday which preceded the Labour Party conference.

mittee, complained at the meeting that Mr Prentice's speech was likely to be a preliminary to an ultimate struggle to remove the clause 4 commitment to socialism from the Labour Party constitution.

"Not long ago the Prime Minister himself signed a message of support to Mr Prentice in the difficulties he was experiencing in his constituency", Mr Atkinson said.

Mr Atkinson said, "Now the wheel has moved on and it is necessary for Mr Wilson to make clear to the movement the meaning of his letter. 'Is he still attached to the movement or does he now wish to refuse some of the things which are being said in the movement, to refuse the message which has gone out from Roy Shill and Reg [Mr Jenkins, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and Mr Prentice] that now is the time to mount an offensive against our socialist movement?'"

Referring to the imprisonment of the Shrewsbury pickets, Mr Heffer said the real disgrace was not that it had happened, but that a Labour government and in particular Mr Jenkins, did nothing about it.

It was no good Mr Wilson saying it was all the responsibility of the Home Secretary and hiding behind that. "If the Cabinet, in a majority, had taken a decision a way round could have been found", Mr Atkinson said.

He was speaking after Mr Eric Tomlinson, one of the pickets, who has served his sentence, had addressed the meeting.

Mr Heffer, in the presence of Mr Foot, called the recent measures for reducing unemployment "a miserable, piddling package". He added: "If we are going to deal with this essential problem then we must begin to do it by taking over the financial institutions, getting investment where we

need it, and stopping the cuts in public expenditure of the kind which are leading to higher unemployment, particularly in nationalized industries and local authorities."

Mr Ernie, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said there was a crisis in capitalism which had got to be tackled by implementation of the manifesto, including dramatic steps forward in public ownership and control of the economy.

"Alliance" rejoined: Mr Peter Stephenson, chairman of the Social Democratic Alliance, last night rejected the *Tribune* group criticisms of the document when he spoke at a meeting addressed by Mr Prentice (see col 6).

"If you are a delegate to this (Labour Party) conference, try to speak. Too often in the past the platform speaker has had to make the only moderate response to left-wing speeches from the floor. These days we cannot even rely on the platform speaker. Let us hear the voice of the real rank and file at our conference. We need more aggressive self-assertion by social democrats at local parties and at union branches. We must stand up and speak regularly, more regularly than we do. It is our duty to the left-wing minority to show it is not the rank and file simply because we are afraid to let them get away with it. Join the Social Democratic Alliance. It can and must be built into one of the really powerful forces in British politics. We must fight for the control of the tiller so as to steer our country back along the course of social democracy."

The next few years would be critical for the party and for democracy. More and more people were saying "a plague on both your houses". They were profoundly worried about the state of Britain and did not see an answer in a Conservative Party dominated by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph, or in the Labour Party. He then asked: "Why is this? In many ways the Labour Government is giving a more and more constructive leadership. Particularly since we adopted a number of incomes policy a few weeks ago."

But people do not necessarily accept the policies of the Labour Government as the authentic voice of the Labour Party. They are worried and confused by the strident left-wing message from many sections of the party. The loud voice of the extremists often drowns the moderate voice of the Government.

The agenda of our conference this week makes depressing reading. The recurrent themes are more and more government controls, and the need to destroy the so-called "capitalist system". If that is to be the message to go out from Blackpool this week, we shall deserve to lose even more of our support in the country.

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Mr Prentice calls on moderates to fight

Mr Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, in a speech in Blackpool last night called on Labour Party moderates to fight. He accused left-wingers of being "bitter, class-conscious and dogmatic".

If they gained any more ground, he said, that could lead only to the destruction of the Labour Party. "Unless we can recapture our party for social democracy, millions of people who have supported Labour in the past will be forced to the conclusion that they cannot continue to do so."

Mr Prentice, who was speaking at a meeting of the Social Democratic Alliance, had a noisy but fairly good-humoured reception from an audience divided about equally between those who support him and those who do not.

He was questioned by Mr Eric Tomlinson, one of the Shrewsbury building pickets, who was recently released from prison, that tempers became frayed.

Mr Tomlinson said he was glad that the minister had been dismissed as an MP by his constituency Labour Party at Newham, North East.

Mr Prentice said: "Those who campaigned for the premature release of Mr Tomlinson or who are still campaigning for his premature release are in the same position as Mr Warren (the other imprisoned picket) are striking a blow at the rule of law." This comment brought howls of protest from the audience.

In the main body of his speech Mr Prentice told his fellow moderates:

"If you are a delegate to this (Labour Party) conference, try to speak. Too often in the past the platform speaker has had to make the only moderate response to left-wing speeches from the floor. These days we cannot even rely on the platform speaker. Let us hear the voice of the real rank and file at our conference. We need more aggressive self-assertion by social democrats at local parties and at union branches. We must stand up and speak regularly, more regularly than we do. It is our duty to the left-wing minority to show it is not the rank and file simply because we are afraid to let them get away with it. Join the Social Democratic Alliance. It can and must be built into one of the really powerful forces in British politics. We must fight for the control of the tiller so as to steer our country back along the course of social democracy."

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Minister hints at move to cut imports

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday hinted at government action to stem the flood of imported products.

Addressing a meeting in Blackpool organized by the Common Market Safeguards Committee, he said that if his "buy British" campaign and the "efforts of our own exporters prove insufficient, then we shall certainly have to consider the provisions that exist in both the Treaty of Accession and the Rome Treaty which might help to remedy this serious situation."

He had always considered trade expansion to be better than trade restriction, but "if the recession in world trade continues we cannot countenance the destruction through excessive imports of important sections of British industry."

The trade deficit with the EEC was likely to be as much as £2,400m this year, he said. "We cannot afford this scale of deficit. We cannot afford it either in terms of the jobs at risk in British industry or in terms of the burden on our balance of payments."

Mr Shore said the EEC should make a more active approach to world recession. He gave a warning that a second great debate about the future of the Community was imminent.

It would not be responsible to consider membership but considering the many grave difficulties that existed. Too little energy had been devoted to resolving the serious and pressing economic difficulties in Europe; instead the EEC was pressing forward relentlessly towards the achievement of European unity.

The key to the new proposals was the formal negotiation and

ministry to discuss policies towards the EEC.

Mr Robert Harrison, who was a director of the National Reform Campaign, said that the Labour movement had a responsibility to be active in its attitudes towards Europe. "We can afford no suggestion that we are going to retreat into a negligent, sensitive, ultra-patriotic position regarding Europe", he said.

Clay Cross vote 'failure' criticized

Labour MPs who failed to vote in the Commons in August to lift the disqualification on the Clay Cross councillors were criticized at a meeting in Blackpool yesterday organized by the Clay Cross Labour Party and the Young Socialists.

The speakers, who included Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, and Mr David Bull, one of the original 11 Clay Cross rebels, appealed for support for a Labour Party conference emergency resolution from the National Union of Public Employees. It calls on the Government to take whatever legislative action is necessary to remove the fines, surcharges, bans and disqualifications from the councillors.

Mr Skinner said that when it came to the crucial division at Westminster it was found that about a score of Labour MPs were missing. They had defied not only a conference decision but a Parliamentary Labour Party decision as well.

Bernard Levin, who had written all these panoptic articles for four or five months was able to score another victory for Ken Mogg and his gang", Mr Skinner said.

TUC wants a social security review

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Union levy brought forward

By Our Labour Staff

Faced with a cash crisis, the Labour Party has successfully negotiated help from the unions to bring forward the 21p a year which was due to come into operation in January, 1977.

The 21p affiliation fee was agreed by the unions last year. The present fee of 17p a year was due to rise to 19p next January 1, and by a further 2p a year later.

That final instalment of the increase has been added on now to help to meet the immediate shortfall in the party's revenues. Technically, the recommendation has to be approved in the "secret" session of the conference on Thursday, but that is expected to be a formality.

Party officials and the unions are to undertake joint action to raise the money. Mr Jack Jones said last night that his Transport and General Workers' Union would not be "a hard landlord" when the party's lease of Transport House, which it shares with the TGWU, came up for renewal.

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Manifesto 'has been sidetracked'

From Hugh Noyes Blackpool

The main targets for Miss Joan Maynard, Mr Robert Cray and Mr Dennis Skinner, the three Labour MPs who spoke yesterday at a meeting in Blackpool of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, were their own comrades in the parliamentary party.

The theme of the meeting was that Labour MPs should be chosen "by the Labour Party, not by Fleet Street, not by the Prime Minister, and not by themselves". Mr Tony Kelly, who led the opposition to Mr Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, in his constituency at Newham, North East, spoke of the "horrifying interference" that came from Mr Wilson and the parliamentary party with its "infamous round-robin".

Miss Maynard, MP for Sheffield, Brightside, proclaimed that the party's manifesto had been sidetracked by most members of the parliamentary party. "She urged that some way should be devised 'to improve the quality of the parliamentary party in the sense of making MPs responsible to the people who elected them'."

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Social Democratic Alliance statement

The statement by the Social Democratic Alliance says in part:

"We find in our dismay that there seems to be much evidence to justify the fear that there are some of the NEC (National Executive Committee) of the Labour Party who do have friendly feelings towards the East European dictatorships and that there are also a number who do have more in common with the British Communist Party than is consistent with the democratic and socialist traditions of either Gaitskell or Bevan."

There are in our view a number of ways in which these sympathies have been expressed in recent days and we have divided our analysis into a number of categories.

"Morning Star": Several members of the NEC have written for the *Morning Star*, the Communist daily newspaper. Others have gone further and agreed to speak, together with Communists, at so-called *Morning Star* rallies. Those on the NEC who have taken this extreme step are Judith Hart, MP, Michael Foot, MP, and Joan Maynard, MP.

What would we not say if leading Conservatives or leading Liberals appeared on platforms of the newspapers of the National Front or the Moslems? We would of course rightly condemn them and we would expect the party to take a decision against a party whose leadership permitted such actions.

"Labour Monthly": This is not a widely read journal. It is therefore understandable that some members of the general public and even some rank-and-file Labour activists will not know what it is. It is a Communist-controlled journal. But members of the NEC surely do know this and cannot be unaware of the political position of Mr Prime Dutt, its editor for half a century until his recent death. On his death, however, Mrs Renee Short, MP, a mem-

ber of the NEC, wrote: "It is always and when a devoted socialist and a staunch comrade died."

As Mrs Short must have known, Mrs Short was not a Communist, not a Socialist. Indeed, he was for decades the leading theoretician of the Communist Party of Great Britain and the Soviet Union, the Soviet suppression of Hungary. Much of the criticism applies to all the other members of the NEC who have voluntarily contributed to the so-called *Labour Monthly*, namely: Mr Frank Ainsworth, MP, Mr John Forrester, MP, Mrs Lena Jeger, MP, Mr Sid Weighell, Mr Danny McGarvey, and Miss Joan Maynard, MP.

East European Communist parties: The last year has seen, for the first time in our party's history, a movement towards fraternal relations with the ruling Communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe on a party-to-party basis.

We do not consider that our democratic socialist party can have direct links with and democratic Communist parties. Our party should indeed only have organizational relationships, as in the past, with parties of the Socialist International.

As a result of the NEC decision to institute a new policy, our party's annual report lists under "Delegations" the following items: 1. Romanian Communist Party Congress: Ian Mikardo, MP (NEC); 2. German Democratic Republic: Alex Wilson (NEC) and Jenny Little (International Secretary) visited East Berlin for talks. Mr Ron Hayward (general secretary) visited the GDR for talks with party and Government leaders.

The report does not state which party officials and leaders were delegates. It is not clear whether they were not democratic socialist officials and leaders, for there have been no indications of their having been any jail visits: Mr Hayward is reported in *Labour Weekly* as saying: "I see Mr Bonecker [East German Communist Party leader] as a man of wisdom and experience, very proud of the German Democratic Republic, and with every right to be proud."

HOME NEWS

More jail sentences right for violence

Legal Correspondent

It is for a new attitude to be taken towards the frequent imprisonment of violent offenders in an anonymous article in the latest issue of *The Times* journal of the "area" Association. It is on the tone and content of the publication, the official organ of the area, which represents the JPs, that the views are at least semi-

light of the increase in the number of crimes of violence, it is a reappraisal of sentences imposed for violence against property and persons, especially on the police and on those who serve the public, such as bus and train crews, stewards, taxi drivers, traffic wardens and licensees.

regarding the most serious offences, would it not be better to have a more consistent approach to sentencing, so that the normal penalty to be exacted unless there were some special reason?

article points out that in years the legislature had less than four years ago, the courts to imprisonment. That was a powerful disincentive to imprisonment of any one.

-care call educate s of NHS

Medical Reporter

Doctors and the public it was normal to feel unwell sometimes, many cases in the National Service could be over-looked, spending more on the Office of Health, says in a report today.

unrealistic expectation of health care can achieve developed, it says. By using for perfect well-being, society squanders resources on treatments which, in terms, are unnecessary and ineffective.

continual demand for money for services could be met if ill health was easily accepted as a disability, and particularly as the responsibility of the individual rather than the individual's own had become more of a "pastoral" psychosomatic illness, and inadequacy. There were often very expensive, aids to help the person who would be found one or more medically "mal" conditions as a of as few as 15 medical conditions, not an unusual to be carried out.

report says that the medical assistance of the Victorian era was too extreme, but the utility growing medical knowledge of the 1970s be equally harmful. It is more reliance on self and an acceptance of personal responsibility for maintaining good health.

Biggs book says seven in robbers escaped

members of the great robbery gang, who shared £100,000 in August, 1963, got away with it according to Biggs.

Biggs published today a book, *A Fleet Street Story*, in which he tells the story of the robbery. The gang consisted of 17 men on full shares, on no lesser shares of those who were covered by full-share men were caught and the author says are now believed to be respectable businessmen. The robbery was released because of evidence.

Fear that judges may become 'political'

By Marcel Berlins

The danger of British judges becoming linked with politics is a Bill of Rights was introduced in Eastbourne on Saturday. Mr James Fawcett, president of the European Commission of Human Rights, said that the Bill of Rights was a discretionary power than in any other European country outside Russia.

The discussion, at the annual conference of the Law Society, brought together three of the principal figures in the debate on the proposal that Britain should have a Bill of Rights to protect fundamental freedoms.

Lord Justice Scarman, who was instrumental in reviving the call for a Bill, presided over a panel consisting of Mr Fawcett and Professor Sir Harry Street, Professor of English Law at Manchester University.

Professor Street said there were many areas in which the citizen was being unfairly treated by the executive. The balance between the state and the individual was not a fair one.

"It was pretty clear that Watergate could never have been exposed here," he said. "Our laws—the Official Secrets Act, contempt, libel and breach of confidence—would have prevented any journalist from investigating too closely."

But that imbalance, which could be seen in many situations in Britain, did not come only from the courts, said Mr Street. The judges themselves were in many cases able to redress the imbalance between the executive and the

citizen, but had not done so. "When I think of the opportunities judges have had in the past to protect the citizens by fashioning the common law contrary to the wishes of the executive, how sure can we be that the courts will welcome the onerous task of finding an Act of Parliament void because it was inconsistent with the Bill of Rights?" he said.

If the judges were to assume that power, would it not make them into a different kind of animal, more political, more like the judges of the United States Supreme Court? Was that desirable, he asked.

Lord Justice Scarman disagreed that judges might become political if a Bill of Rights was introduced. "The courts are already in the area of politics," he said. "But instead of being the bold matador looking the bull in the face, they are running away. But they are still in the arena."

He called for a more positive approach to the question of controlling ministerial decisions. Mr Fawcett also took the view that a Bill of Rights would not make British judges political. The Crossman diaries case was one example of a court in effect being asked to make a political decision.

Professor Street accepted in theory that a Bill of Rights would be desirable. "But I am not satisfied that we can devise a workable system which the courts could operate, which would be reasonably predictable in its consequences, which would alleviate the evils it aims at, and which the elected members of Parliament would be prepared to endorse," he said.

mentally ill 'neglected' warning

The treatment of mental illness in Britain is in a state of disarray, according to a statement today from Mr Tony Smythe, director of Mind, the National Association for Mental Health. Although hard-pressed mental health workers were doing all they could "we are still creating a reservoir of human suffering and waste," he says.

"Psychiatrists and others working with the mentally ill are already predicting an increase in the attempted suicide rate. The time for sympathy and promises has gone, the time for action is now," Mr Smythe says.

The statement, with a paper on "Society and the Mentally Ill," is being sent to all 200 members of the all-party Parliamentary Mental Health Group. "When the Government White Paper on mental illness finally emerges, it will be addressing itself to the future of a public service that has fallen into disarray following years of neglect; neglect that is the product of apathy, broken promises and muddle," it declares.

The hardest hit are the 71,000 long-term chronic patients, many of whom are confined to outdated psychiatric hospitals. Countless persons "fall through the safety net into prisons and doss-houses," the statement says.

£50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by number 3 5B 6244. The winner lives in Chyrd. The 25 £1,000 winners are:

Correction

A Press Association report on Friday of an inquest at Reigate, Surrey, on three men who died in a drain stated that upon verdict of accidental death were returned.

Pensioners' tokens ate into EEC beef stocks

By Hugh Clayton

British pensioners increased their purchases of beef by half this year during the EEC campaign to reduce the beef "monogamy" the Ministry of Agriculture reported yesterday.

But when the campaign ended, their purchases reverted quickly to the previous level. The campaign, which ran until April, included the issue of tokens which were worth 20p when used to buy beef which cost at least another 20p.

In the spring of last year pensioners bought an average of just over 8 2/3 oz of meat a week each.

In the first quarter of this year the figure had risen to almost 13 1/2 oz, of which 6oz was bought with tokens. But in the second quarter consumption fell back to 9oz, a week, of which less than an ounce was bought with tokens.

That first assessment of the impact of the scheme was included in the latest instrument of the National Food Survey. It said:

"Household consumption of red carcass meat fell from the exceptionally high average of 16.1oz in the first quarter, to 14.1oz in the second. More than three quarters of the decrease was in consumption of beef, and the remainder in pork."

The survey also said that families had been buying unusually high amounts of processed vegetables this year because of the high prices of fresh vegetables. Fewer fresh potatoes, peas and beans were bought than a year earlier.

Indictable offences show 84 pc rise in 10 years New police initiatives paying off

From Peter Evans Bedford

A drop of four fifths in day-time crime reported by police in part of a London borough and the elimination of vehicle crimes there are evidence of new initiatives that are slowly beginning to gather momentum within the police service.

The details were given at a conference at Cranfield Institute of Technology, Bedford, which ended yesterday. It was attended by police, probation officers and social workers from many parts of Britain and from Western Europe. The crime decrease was in Southwark during a period in which police joined with the education welfare service after analysis of a truancy rate which in some schools at times exceeded a fifth.

A chart was prepared, showing the number of truants and offenders in each of the schools in the borough. Two police officers were posted to crime prevention control in those areas to spot and question loitering juveniles.

Professor F. H. McClintock, head of the Department of Criminology at Edinburgh University, said that the two million indictable offences recorded in England and Wales last year represented an 84 per cent increase in 10 years. In 12 years the rate increased from 32 to 64 a thousand of population. In London crime rose by a fifth in the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year.

Those under 21 found guilty last year accounted for half of known offenders, apart from those dealt with by police with a caution in England and Wales

How one borough set out to catch children playing truant

and a warning in Scotland. Tactics described by police officers are evidence of a determination not to proceed "in the ordinary way". Police are beginning to take the initiative in leading the community to pinpoint social ills and provide measures to alleviate their worst effects.

In part of Lanarkshire, one summer project for children and a new youth club were followed by a 42 per cent decrease in the number of juvenile offenders compared with the same period a year before.

In Slough, Berkshire, interim reports about the effects of a new community-based policing scheme in what was a difficult area suggest changed local attitudes to police and their work.

Chief Supt Norman Chapple, of Merseyside, described how Mr James Haughton, the chief constable, invited local community leaders and others interested to a meeting at Kirkby. The result was a new community committee to "examine the social factors which give rise to crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour generally".

Kirkby is distressed by its bad reputation. An analysis by Mr Chapple, to be presented soon, discloses that probably no other community of com-

parable size has the same level of social and economic drawbacks.

They include anti-social neighbours, many families having been moved there because of their priority on the housing list; flats too small for families allocated to them, a lack of privacy and high noise level; poor maintenance and repair service (because Liverpool Corporation was an absentee landlord); rents too high for the facilities provided; and no proper play areas near blocks of flats.

Unemployment has been 15 to 20 per cent consistently, compared with Merseyside's per cent and a national average of less than 4 per cent. "It is not uncommon for young residents of Kirkby to marry and have children without ever having worked since leaving school," he said.

The crime figures are a classic example of cause and effect. Whereas last year's figures for England and Wales rose by 21 per cent, and in London by 16 per cent, in Kirkby the figure was 51 per cent.

Mr Chapple said: "My research has revealed that vandalism in 1974 probably cost the citizens of Kirkby a staggering £375,000. The figure, a conservative estimate, includes £160,000 for arson of warehouses. "According to a recent Home Office publication, these figures are more in line with cities with a population of 500,000 than with moderate sized towns of 60,000," he added.

Although he did not say so, Kirkby will need massive government aid to obtain the improvement so deeply desired.

In brief

Radio to give job vacancies

A "labour exchange of the air", which will give a monthly review of job vacancies in 21 cities and towns, is planned for the Monday edition of BBC's *Radio 4 You and Yours* programme after the issue of monthly unemployment figures. A list of vacancies, to be provided by local employment exchanges and the professional and executive register, will be cross-indexed to show areas with a surplus of skilled men and women in specific jobs.

Potholes rescued

Mr Mike Starr, aged 30, a university lecturer, of Tennison Road, St Albans, and Mr Terry Taylor, aged 26, a merchant seaman, of Mooks Way, Kines Norton, Birmingham, who were trapped in a pothole at Mellina, near Lancaster, were brought to the surface yesterday after spending the night underground in the Lost John Pot at Mellina.

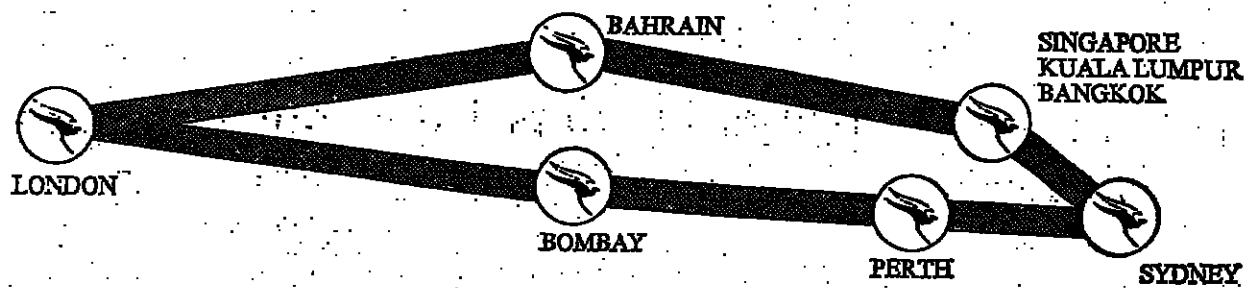
Conservative choice

Mrs Margaret Stoneman, aged 50, a college lecturer, has been chosen as prospective parliamentary Conservative candidate for Nottingham, West. At the last general election Mr Michael English retained the seat for Labour with a majority of 9,265.

9,700 friendly societies

There were nearly 9,700 industrial and provident societies at the end of last year, with nearly 14 million members, and funds of £1,123m, according to part three of the annual report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

There is a Qantastic business advantage in flying QF8 to Australia and QF1 back via Asia.



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If you're in no hurry coming back, stopover in Asia. QF1 can give you more Sydney departures to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur or Bangkok than anyone else on your way back to London.

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HOME NEWS

Soldiers die in Ulster road crash blaze

Two soldiers died when their scout car swerved off the road, overturned and burst into flames yesterday outside Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. They were Corporal David Llewellyn, aged 21, of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and Trooper Robert Barracough, aged 18, of the 13th/18th The Royal Hussars of Bessbrook. Both were single.

A man beaten to death in East Belfast early yesterday was identified as Mr John Dunne, aged 59, a Protestant, of Taney Street. He was attacked by two youths in a street off Beersbridge Road. A police official said: "The reason for this killing is a mystery."

The Royal Ulster Constabulary was investigating a complaint that one of its officers was beaten up by a soldier near Belfast city centre.

Twenty-three inmates of the borstal wing of Armagh jail were transferred to Belfast because of a riot at Armagh on Saturday night. During the disturbance the rioters damaged furniture in the cells and also cell doors. At the same time prisoners in the women's wing, which houses the Prison Sisters, began making a noise, a Government spokesman said.

One of the women injured her arm while she was locked in her cell and required hospital treatment.

It was the second disturbance at Armagh in a week.

The Government in Dublin hopes to get its part of new Anglo-Irish terrorist legislation on the statute books by Christmas. Mr Declan Costello, the Attorney General, said yesterday.

The proposed measures would be debated in the Dail in the autumn and reach the voting stage soon afterwards.

Mr Costello, the Prime Minister, said in a radio interview that British criticism of the alleged delays over the proposed law had been expected. "There has been no great delay on the part of the Irish Government," he said.

The council, which devotes 80 per cent of its time to examining complaints against newspapers, had been asked whether sanctions on the press would involve "authoritarian control".

Among sanctions suggested were the obligation to print apologies when censured, fines or a ban on publishing for a few weeks for offences against a code of conduct. The council found it difficult to understand how the question of such a ban could arise in that form in a free society.

It reiterated its support for codes of conduct accepted voluntarily by members of professional organizations. But it gives a warning that any imposed code would have to be applied to anyone deemed to be a member of the press.

It goes on: "The council's experience over 23 years leads it to believe that no wit or ingenuity could produce a code adequate to cover the apparently infinite variations in ethical situations calling for investigation and adjudication in the conduct of the nation's newspapers and periodicals."

"The danger of codes in such circumstances is their inflexibility, the complainant having to find a section of the code under which he can take action. The respondent, searching for a section of the code upon which he can base justification, tending thus to produce a legalistic situation instead of one directed solely at ensuring the highest standards of professional integrity."

On the possible appearance of a "closed shop" for journalists, the council says that if that meant that newspapers and magazines could no longer receive contributions from those not enrolled in a particular trade union, it would represent "a totally unacceptable assault upon freedom of expression as hitherto enjoyed by the people of this country."

It dismisses the commission's idea that "an appropriate elaborate"

Explain Cabinet paper 'leak' Mr Short urged

A Labour MP yesterday called on Mr Short, leader of the Commons, to explain an alleged "massive leak" of Cabinet papers on power devolution to Scotland and Wales.

The call came from Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for West Lothian and chairman of the Scottish group of Labour MPs.

A report in *The Sunday Times* yesterday said that the Government was in trouble with its promise to legislate in the coming session for separate assemblies for Scotland and Wales. The newspaper said that it had seen copies of Cabinet committee papers.

In a letter to Mr Short, the minister in charge of the House of Commons, Mr Dalyell said: "John White [who wrote the report] talked to me a fortnight ago, as he did to many others, but I had no indication that Cabinet papers would be leaked."

He suggested that if the leaks were genuine it might be sensible to publish all the documents. "However, as a matter of urgency, I would ask for your comment on the damaging assertion attributed to you that no government is not at issue."

Call for guarantee: Wales and Scotland should receive an immediate cast iron guarantee from the Cabinet that there would be no reversal of its promise of power devolution, Mr Dalyell Williams, general secretary of Plaid Cymru, has

said Mr Short in a letter released yesterday. He said the disclosure in *The Sunday Times* "show that pressure of public opinion led by the two national parties is the only guarantee of action."

"The secret Cabinet papers reveal a complete and deplorable cynicism in Whitehall regarding devolution, and make it quite plain that the Labour Government is more concerned about losing votes than looking after the interests of the people of Wales and Scotland."

Trevor Fishlock writes from Cardiff: The confidential Cabinet papers were seen by me last week and their contents disclosed in an article in *The Times* on Thursday.

They showed that civil servants and other advisers have serious reservations about the devolution of power to the proposed Welsh and Scottish assemblies. The Cabinet is advised that the economic and industrial restraints must be kept firmly in the hands of central government.

The papers give a rare insight into Civil Service thinking. The theme of the advice on framing the Devolution Bill is that the Government should appear to be giving substantial devolved power, while giving relatively little.

The tone reveals Civil Service fears that devolution has not been given enough thought. Leading article, page 13

Code of conduct 'would fetter press freedom'

By a Staff Reporter

Any requirement that newspapers should be bound to a code of behaviour would in effect be a form of control over publication, the proposed measures would be debated in the Dail in the autumn and reach the voting stage soon afterwards.

Mr Costello, the Prime Minister, said in a radio interview that British criticism of the alleged delays over the proposed law had been expected. "There has been no great delay on the part of the Irish Government," he said.

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On the possible appearance of a "closed shop" for journalists, the council says that if that meant that newspapers and magazines could no longer receive contributions from those not enrolled in a particular trade union, it would represent "a totally unacceptable assault upon freedom of expression as hitherto enjoyed by the people of this country."

It dismisses the commission's idea that "an appropriate elaborate"

oration" of its complaints procedure might enhance the status of its adjudications. It says that the status of its adjudications can be defined in terms of the consensus of opinion of a fair and diligent jury of sufficient size and breadth of experience, armed with a degree of expert knowledge concerned with the reputation of the profession and the public interest safeguarded by a substantial non-professional element.

To convert the system into something comparable to a court of law would neither improve its status nor serve the public interest, it says. Instead, it would be a "fettering of the status of its adjudications by a professional body, which is not a court of law, and which is not a court of law."

The council says it had considered making the initiative in regard to possible departures from proper behaviour by the press on about six occasions in the past 12 months. It is prepared to investigate industrial threats of censorship of the press, and the subject of newspaper "pandering".

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WEST EUROPE

The Pope rebuts to Spain

From Our Correspondent Rome, Sept 28

Representatives of the Spanish Government, who will normally have had the places of honor at the papal ceremony, were absent from St Peter's Square today when the Pope canonized a Spanish saint.

Their absence, remarkably considering the deep Catholic traditions of Spain, marked a new climax to the tension which has been developing between the church and General Franco's regime over the past few years.

It was considered to be at least partly motivated by the Pope's bitter condemnation yesterday of the execution of five Spanish guerrillas and of the "harsh repression" in Spain. The Pope disclosed that he had appealed four times for clemency, the final attempt being a personal message to General Franco in March 1968.

The official Spanish delegation to the canonization of Juan Macias, a Spanish missionary to Peru who died in 1645, cancelled its visit. The Italian Government is understood to have made it known it could not guarantee the safety of its officials.

An official reception at the Spanish Embassy in Rome, which the occasion was also called off, but unsuccessful efforts to obtain military intervention.

The Spanish Ambassador and 40 of his staff returned to Spain yesterday, but a Portuguese Foreign Office spokesman said: "Dialogue between the two countries is still continuing. We hope relations will not be broken off. We will do everything possible to avoid this."

Portugal's Ambassador was re-invested in Madrid.

The Lisbon Government's statement deplored "the political and moral depravity" and "unqualified vandalism" of the mob. It said refugees of uncertain origin were partly responsible for the attacks.

Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: The executions in Spain have caused indignation throughout France. It is by no means confined to the left, but extends to leading churchmen, politicians, and even individual ministers, such as Mme Simone Veil, although the Government as such has remained silent.

In Paris, Lyons, Bordeaux, Marseilles, and Toulouse, there were violent clashes between police and demonstrators. Damage to Spanish consular offices, cultural and commercial premises is extensive.

A time bomb went off in the Champs-Élysées last night and eight people in a cinema queue were injured by flying glass.

The main Paris-Hendaye line was rocked by an explosion just after midnight as the Madrid Express went by. The locomotive was damaged, but



Cardinal Enrique y Tarancón, right, the Archbishop of Madrid, stands at the Pope's side during the canonization of a Spanish saint in Rome yesterday after the Spanish Government's representatives, the guests of honour, cancelled their visit.

The train was able to continue its journey.

The rioting in the Champs-Élysées district, in which the Spanish Embassy is located, was reminiscent of May 1968. Youngs smashed the area, breaking the windows of banks, shops, and restaurants, setting fire to cars, smashing traffic signals and street signs, and even attempting to build a barricade.

Their targets were indiscriminate, from the offices of Renault to the Soviet airline, in the Champs-Élysées, where the bomb went off. Twenty-two policemen were injured in the fighting, and 53 persons were arrested.

Left-wing parties and organizations have issued a call for mass demonstrations tomorrow from the Place de la République to the Bastille to protest against the executions. They also call upon all workers to down tools for five minutes at noon.

Protesters in Lyons have sent a telegram to the Pope asking him to excommunicate General Franco, "that sanguinary dictator".

Stockholm, Sept 28—Mr Olaf Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, today described the leaders of Spain as "these sordid murderers".

Speaking at the congress of the ruling Social Democratic Party, he predicted that the Spanish regime would fall apart as it rose to power 10 years ago.

Mr Palme said his government had decided to allocate 200,000 kronor (122,000 £) for "free Spain". He did not say how the money would be channelled.—AP.

David Cross writes from Brussels: The entry in many FEC member states over the executions is bound to lead to a cooling of relations between Madrid and the Community.

Señor Sánchez-Bravo, a 21-year-old student and FRAP

monarchist daily ARC entitled "Intolerable savagery." The "intolerable savagery" did not refer to the executions but rather to the destruction of the embassy in Lisbon.

Two of the condemned men left letters to relatives which they wrote shortly before going before the firing squads. Basque activist, Señor Baredes Mann, wrote: "Long live solidarity among oppressed peoples. Homeland or death."

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OVERSEAS

Paris asked to remove forces from Chad

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Sept 28

Negotiations will be continued between the French Government and Mr. Hissène Habré, the leader of the Tuareg guerrillas of Chad, for the release of Mlle Françoise Claustre, the French ethnologist, and the simultaneous handing over of 6m francs (1,666,000 £) worth of stores, part of her ransom.

M. Louis Mouchet, the prefect of the Vosges department, handed over 1m francs in cash last week when he flew to the Tibetan desert to meet Mr. Habré.

The Chad Government has ordered the withdrawal within one month of all French military staff from the country. These total some 2,000 men, including 300 officers and NCOs, including the Chad forces for training and technical assistance.

But there seems to be no question as yet of a breach of diplomatic relations. The media of President Bangoré, Gabon, and of President Nguabi of Congo, who was in Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, last week, may ward off the worst, which neither France, because of Chad's massive, not Chad, for economic reasons, can afford.

There has been in the press and in political circles a strong suspicion that the French authorities have not acted as quickly as is ethically required in the matter over the Claustre affair.

France's *Stir* yesterday published a statement by M. Pierre Claustre, the ethnologist's husband, who is a prisoner of Mr. Hissène Habré since September 1, when he went to the Tibesti desert to try to secure his wife's release.

M. Claustre recounts a conversation which he had in March with a close assistant of Mr. Hissène Habré, the Minister for Co-operation, in which the official said: "Everyone is fed up with this affair. I cannot do anything. I am a defined official."

M. Claustre then added whether this meant that the Government did not care. "Of course, the Government does not care a damn, nor does anyone else."

The Minister for Co-operation repeated that the charge of non-responsibility and inactivity of M. Claustre explains the flagrant inaccuracies his statement contains.

Mugger kills victim without money

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Sept 28

The brutality of New York muggers has been illustrated in Brooklyn at the weekend. Mr. Israel Turner, an orthodox Jew, was shot dead late on Friday because he had no money to give a young man who stopped him.

Mr. Turner, who was 51, did not have any money because it was the Sabbath, and his religion forbids him to carry money then. He explained this to the men, but it made no difference.

The incident occurred outside Mr. Turner's home as he was returning from a celebration of the Sabbath (Feast of Tabernacles) holiday. His wife was home stopped and shouted to the man: "Leave him alone. He has no money." She then saw her husband shot.

Mrs. Turner had told a neighbour that she and her husband had been inmates in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

A man of 23 has been arrested and charged with the murder.

23 Portuguese handed over to Indonesians

Jakarta, Sept 28—A group of 23 Portuguese soldiers, once threatened with death while held by the Indonesian Revolutionary Union (UDT), have been handed over to the Indonesian authorities, relief officials said today.

The officials said the prisoners had been taken to the Indonesian town of Matanim shortly before the UDT were driven out of the east Timor border town of Barauville by left-wing Fretilin forces last Wednesday.

The Portuguese prisoners were now at the coastal town of Atapupu. UDT had been reported to have threatened to kill them unless Lisbon took immediate steps to end the Timor crisis.—Reuters.

189 lose jobs in Nigerian purge

Lagos, Sept 28—The Nigerian military government has dismissed 189 officials in the Department of Customs and Excise in its most sweeping purge to date. The department's four top officials were included.

The Government's move is the latest in its efforts to combat corruption. More than 500 employees in various departments have been dismissed since Brigadier Murtala Muhammad came to power on July 29.—Agence France-Press.

Nepal's royal couple end Belgrade visit

Belgrade, Sept 28—King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal wound up their five-day official visit to Yugoslavia today and left by special aircraft for home via Amman and Delhi.

New rules to aid pit health

Mechanical 'noses' sniff the air under ground

Half a mile below ground, in the dark and dim, new noses sniff the air. They are mechanical noses: monitors in the front line of the fight against the sharp, fine dust that causes the lung disease, pneumoconiosis, for which, in the past 10 months, sufferers have been paid compensation of £118m.

From tomorrow, the metal noses, which record the amount of breathable dust in a mine, are part of a new package of regulations the law demands for miners' protection.

Regulations are especially important in north Wales, where the dust hazard is greater, and the incidence of pneumoconiosis is higher than anywhere else in Britain.

Dust disease, and fear of it, are important factors in the complicated equation of mining in Wales, where the prize is the world's best anthracite, and Europe's best coking coal, and the price is a battle against the worst mining conditions anywhere. The perpetual challenge is to balance the factors: cost, manpower, machines, health and human relationships. The nature of the coal and the rock in which it lies sandwiched makes the going hard and the pits dusty.

But pneumoconiosis is not only a medical and engineering problem: it is an emotive subject in Welsh valleys where people have seen jobs and

Regional Report

Trevor Fishlock

Oakdale, Gwent

brothers tormented by the rattling cough, often the forerunner of wheezing death. There is still some bitterness at the way compensation was handed in the old days; there is recognition that it was the miners' militant insistence that gave a push to research and a better deal for victims.

When the industry was nationalized, the National Coal Board took the dust problem seriously. Its research, now costing £500,000 a year, and its prevention methods have made the pits much healthier places. Dust disease no longer kills men under 40, and far fewer men between 40 and 60. Nevertheless, up to a quarter of Welsh miners have pneumoconiosis, mostly in its simple form which does not according to research, affect life expectancy; but 3.9 per cent have the disease in its serious form.

There are 39,000 registered pneumoconiosis, most of them in Wales. Since the NCB-National Union of Mineworkers compensation scheme, to which

the Government gave £100m, started last November, 54,654 people have been paid almost £118m.

The new dust rules take into account that the key to pneumoconiosis lies in the weight of microscopic particles that penetrate the body's natural filters and enter the lungs. The culprit is not the swirling dust glazing the helmet lamp beam, but the dust of between one and five microns (a micron is one-thousandth of a millimetre), falling at a certain speed, that causes the damage. One of the mysteries of dust disease is why some miners get it and others do not.

The new mechanical noses, the size of a lunch box, are able to filter out respirable dust for examination. A dust limit of eight milligrammes per cubic metre has been set. If it is exceeded, mining has to stop. In any case, miners will leave the pits if they suspect that the level is too high.

Of the 105 coal faces in South Wales, all but 20 were within the new limits more than 18 months ago, and now all are in line with average dust level of 3.9 milligrammes. In the last financial year, the coal board spent £900,000 on dust control in Wales, and £220,000 on dust sample analysis. A single sample of dust from one of the new meters costs £22 to analyse.

Last letters to relatives from executed Spaniards

Continued from page 1

Spanish diplomatic missions and business offices abroad. Such attacks and even diplomatic action by other governments are invariably described as anti-Spanish, rather than as anti-Francoist.

Two of the condemned men left letters to relatives which they wrote shortly before going before the firing squads. Basque activist, Señor Baredes Mann, wrote: "Long live solidarity among oppressed peoples. Homeland or death."

Señor Sánchez-Bravo, a 21-year-old student and FRAP

monarchist daily ARC entitled "Intolerable savagery." The "intolerable savagery" did not refer to the executions but rather to the destruction of the embassy in Lisbon.

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Agreement reached on cost of US forces in Germany

From Dan van der Vat Bonn, Sept 28

Dr James Schlesinger, the United States Defence Secretary, today announced a "satisfactory solution" of the perennial problem of how much West Germany should pay Washington to offset the foreign exchange cost of maintaining American forces.

After talks in Bonn with Herr Gerhard Schröder, West German Defence Minister, Dr Schlesinger flew to Paris. Herr Leber told reporters that the discussion had also produced progress on the standardization of armaments within Nato.

The two ministers did not give details of how offset costs would be dealt with in future. The last two-year agreement

Crowd hold breaths for Jacob Jones

ocean poles—and dropped back into the water behind Peter Hargrington on Sciaticula, a daughter of the Anglo-Arab stallion Arabian Dan. The novice section went to the local rider, Heather Stapleton, on the black gelding named Ballydoon. He had overlight lead after the speed and endurance and had only 10½ seconds less penalties to add to her dressage score.

The novice cross-country course run off for 67 clear rounds from a field of 81.

Corral, with its welter of alternatives was the occasion for three refusals and two retreats at the first fence, and there were seven refusals and an elimination at the second, eight at the third, six at the fourth, five at the fifth, four at the sixth, two from home.

It was appalling mistfortune for the organizer, Colonel George Brannham, to have one rider in a row for his inaugural attempt to provide the first three-day event in Canada—the one he called the "Harewood" ended in 1953. Next year Bramham will take place in each June, coincident with the Bath & West show, and may thus be assured of better weather

[illegible][illegible]

£ 690 : 1m 50yd)

W. Walker.	9-5	E. Hinde	12-1
W. P. Walwyn.	8-7	P. Eddery	12-1
W. H. W. W. W. W.	8-7	F. Durr	12-1
W. H. W. W. W.	8-7	K. Lewis	8
W. H. W. W. W.	7-10	D. McKay	8
W. H. W. W. W.	7-10		

Term. 16-1 Suited. 20-1. Groves Bay.
 o fillies: £345: 1m 50yd)
 Wrang. 9-0 G. Baxter 6
 Mrs R. Lomax. 9-0 .. L. Warren 18
 Hollinshead. 9-0 T. Fies 31
 andl. M. McCourt. 9-0 J. Reid 5 15

Smith, 9-0	T. McKeown	9
Snider, 9-0	B. Lunnans, 9-0	F. Durr
G. Hunter, 9-0	W. Carey	23
Stone, 9-0	C. P. Gordon, 9-0	E. Eldin
Wife, 9-0	H. Hingley, 9-0	A. Kimberley
W. Bacon, 9-0	E. Johnson	13
Mason, 9-0		13
C. Brittain, 9-0	P. Madden	11
Terrell, 9-0	R. Houghton, 9-0	F. Morby
Wiles, 9-0	J. Higgins	14
Melody, 5-1	B. Bums, 11-2	F. Forsaken, 8-1

Wood, B. van Cussen, 9-0	W. Carlson	6
Wood, B. van Cussen, 9-0	F. Durr	15
Hollinshead, 9-0	T. Iwas	12
J. J. Hindler, 9-0	A. Kimberley	10
Peacock, J. J. Peacock, 8-11	E. Edmondson	16
Peacock, J. J. Peacock, 8-11	H. Edmondson	9
Spearing, 8-11	D. S. Can	14
J. G. Hunter, 8-11	P. Eddy	14
Houghton, 8-11	F. Morley	5
E. Reay, 8-11	C. Baxter	7
13-2 Mv Raff, 10-1	Starr	12-1

Card Leading. 2.45 Inventory. 3.15
Gentle Melody. 4.45 Trainers Seat.

Little Friend. 5.15 Empress Regent.

an. 3.15 Forest King. 3.45 Half a Little Swift.

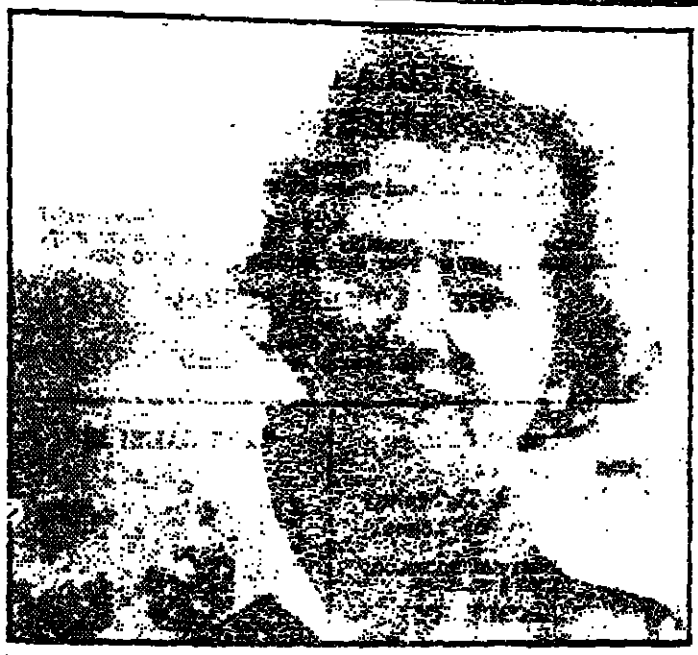
Carlisle
2.15-1. Bobbie Gordon (15-8 fav.)
3. Fair Kitty (4-1). 3. Dunlap
(7-2-1). 17 ran. Fair Beau did not
run.
2.45. 1. Fidler on the Hoof (5-1).
2. Quibaroic (6-1). 3. Bayford (7-2
11 fav.). 1 ran. Peacock 1-2 Jr. ran.

2. Quince 7-11. 3. Saffron 9-12.
 H. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834.

12-17-17: 1. 3. Soverden Club (9-21).
 17 ran. 1. Fern Beach 4-1 fav.
 4-15: 1. Blauvelt (6-11: 2. Cumbria
 (6-11: 3. Trump Card (11-2). 12 ran.
 Le Bronx 6-2 fav.

catch off the eighth ball he received, and for 86 in the second.

intends one last assault on the elusive barrier today.—AFP.



Mrs Thatcher: Her misjudgments are numerous.

Andrew Faulds

The Tory fanfares are sounding tinny now

As the appraisal of past promises and future policies goes on at the Labour Party conference, it is unlikely that any words will be devoted to one of the party's greatest assets. But a limping line or two of timely appreciation is due. The unwholesome clamour of women's lips over the virtues of the Conservative Party's Margaret Thatcher.

Sadly for the knights of the shires and the blue-rinsed ladies of suburbia—though slumbers and wheezers throughout the regions have been told to rejoice—all the falsetto fanfares which flared to greet a political career more of promise than performance have turned tinny and now too flat.

Self-advised—because she is a witty woman—we are told from the star's stool to playing it so cool in the Commons that temperatures and tempers subsided when she rose, frequently, in the House. Opposition leaders only rouse support if they are prepared to take the Prime Minister in the line of the Prime Minister—body blows to the plumes with an occasional flick below the belt. Miss Margaret—the happy home of half the kingdom—fell back on the polished Pyrrhonians which even from their thrones, the mouth fall plumb. An off-the-cuff outburst occasionally wind the Prime Minister, who is not quite the adroit and artful dodger he once was at the Despatch Box.

It is the unanimous opinion of her chosen cabal that is so disturbing. The abler men have been exiled from her court, and those who inch in on her throne are not such as ever have inspired confidence or respect in Parliament of country.

And the decision which must have been taken, even if taken in concert with them, to abstain on the Government's measures to combat inflation, was a betrayal by the Tories and a tragedy for the nation. Many Conservative members deplored that silly partisan decision, for no responsible Opposition can afford to wash its hands in such times as these.

As Ted Heath spoke in the debate, the hang-dog looks that hung like may's along the benches cast doubt on their choice. Heath was a man transformed. He spoke not as a politician, but as a man who had been thrown into the great uninvolved majority of Britain's people to be roused, for the inevitability of a fall in our living standards to be got across to the country. And his deprecatory question, arms wide and that strange chuckle hunching his shoulders, as to who he was to speak of the need for communication, stunned the House. Margaret Thatcher seemed to be a woman who could not stretch of front bench, as the despondent looks behind her showed approbation of their ex-leader.

Her misjudgments now are numerous. When the Prime Minister was away, she left with Chancellor Schmidt shortly after his visit to Helsinki, short-

How a leaflet for 'discontented' troops fell foul of the law

The leaflet says: 'There is no easy way out of the Army, but we hope that by one means or another you will avoid taking part in the killing in Northern Ireland'

One of the year's more piquant trials opens at the Central Criminal Court in London today: Amnesty International has announced in advance that it will adopt the 14 defendants, if convicted as British political prisoners. Demonstrations of various kinds have been planned to accompany the lengthy hearing, from pacifist left-wingers and those who think free speech is in danger. The 14, mostly youthful and from different parts of the country, face serious and unusual charges of conspiracy under the 1934 Incitement to Disaffection Act. Most of the charges revolve around a leaflet called *Some Information for Discontented Soldiers*, compiled by the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign.

The leaflet itself, which has been published by some organisations and is specifically referred to in the charges, says: 'This information has been compiled by supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign who hope it will be of some use to soldiers who have decided not to go to Northern Ireland. We are not recommending any particular course of action. There is no easy way out of the Army, but we hope that by one means or another you will avoid taking part in the killing in Northern Ireland.'

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It gives the address and telephone number of a Stockport cafe where the group can be contacted and advice about how to enter Sweden and apply for asylum. The leaflet says wives and children can join exiles and Sweden has excellent education and social services. It also says: 'If you have decided to go to Sweden, you will be pleased to know that special arrangements have been made to welcome British servicemen who go AWOL to Sweden by the British Deserters Support Group.'

There are, on the agenda for the Labour Party conference which opens at Blackpool today, seven resolutions and five amendments dealing with Britain's defence policy. With one rather dubious exception, they are all aimed at reducing the military expenditure, or at least £1,000m a year.

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Can consumers make their voices heard in Whitehall?

Yes, but whether now, I wonder, is the question. The final session of the first National Consumer Congress in Manchester recently. The Congress had been a success. More than 420 delegates from 125 organisations (I have seen earlier conference calls at Liberal Party assembly) had enthusiastically made their contribution by unanimously agreeing that the consumer movement as a whole had to fight for the improvement of consumer information, for the strengthening of consumer protection, and for increased consumer representation.

Speeches from the platform (with the exception of the opening one by the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had been informed and illuminating. Those from the floor were laudable, at times passionate, and concerned. Above all, it became clear, representatives of consumer organisations cared desperately for the plight of the old, the poor and the underprivileged.

The chairman of the four-month-old National Consumer Council (which organized the Congress), Mr Michael Young, promised that the views expressed by delegates had been noted and would provide a basis for some of the action to be taken by the NCC.

What action, though, can the NCC take? It is a Government-financed body (set up with some trepidation by Mrs Shirley Williams) and there is still four (among some consumers—the ones on the Clapham omnibus, not that many can afford now to take that bus) that the NCC is not just financed from the Treasury, but that it is actually part of the machinery of government.

This, of course, is untrue. But telling that to a poorer shopper in your local supermarket, the NCC is independent and not a Government body, could never be 'bought off' by ministers or by anybody else.

He could, on the other hand, be sacked or feel that he had to go because the council's work was being blocked or because he knew things were not moving fast enough.

As founder of the Consumers' Association, Michael Young in his new role is still convinced that the voice of the consumer must be heard by governments. 'All governments', he told the

national policy, that it ought to be effective defence, and that we should be prepared to devote the necessary financial and human resources to providing it. The other is that war is so awful, and in the nuclear age so insanely destructive that alternative ways must be found of conducting international relations—and that it is in the pursuit of these new ways that we should spend our resources, unabashedly, in the real world, thus in an approach which makes sense only if everyone else is committed to it; and if anyone had any lingering doubts about the aims of the Soviet Union, they have surely been dispelled by Mr Brezhnev's recent speech.

It might be possible to respect the motives of those who fear the resolutions on defence for the Labour Party conference if they demonstrated a greater awareness of the facts of life. In the interests of such closer understanding I offer a suggestion. Let someone add to the amendment tabled by the Bristol West CLP yet another amendment dealing with defence, and call upon the Government of the Soviet Union to make proportionate cuts in its military expenditure, to close down all bases connected with nuclear weapons and to abandon defence policies based on the threatened use of nuclear weapons.

See how many block votes you get for that one, comrades.

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Defence cuts: the hard facts behind the socialist illusions

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The Times Diary

The trouble with the Royal Free

A few weeks ago I reported the experience of a colleague who, taking his sick wife for an appointment with a consultant at the new Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, was made to wait so long that he took his wife away untreated. This provoked a number of letters from readers with other complaints about the hospital, and one letter in its defence.

Several of the complaints concerned the officiousness of porters who prevent cars carrying patients from parking in spaces reserved for doctors. One of the receptionists in the hospital wrote to say that it is all the fault of the architects and planners who did not design the hospital properly.

The question of the design of the hospital has been studied by Jocelyn Thompson, a freelance journalist who wrote a highly critical article on the subject for *Design* magazine. She wrote an article for me setting out some detailed criticisms, and I put her point of view in the hospital for comment. The report which follows is the result.

The 871-bed 12-storey hospital opened its doors less than a year ago but already some parts will have to be updated. The architects, Watkins Gray Woodgate International, say that in the manufacturing pharmacy £40,000 will have to be spent before the area can be used. Meanwhile its work is being done at one of the old hospitals the Royal Free was designed to replace.

The hospital spokesman confirmed this, but said it was a result of a change in Government guidance for the design of such areas. The change occurred between the design stage and the construction stage. All hospitals have been affected by the more stringent guidelines.

ple and then prepare a brief for the architect and that's it. You can't change in the middle.

There also seems to be insufficient room in the hospital to store the greatly increasing numbers of disposable items which are now being used. Ward stores are overflowing and there are severe difficulties in the central sterile supply department. Boxes are stacked in places not designed for them.

The spokesman says that there is no more storage space when the second stage of the hospital is completed in two years. He thinks the piling up of boxes might be due to over-ordering of some items by nurses.

Another area of difficulty is the intensive therapy unit, where cases of heart failure and other diseases are treated. Visitors have no waiting room but are forced to hover just inside the door of the unit, where they can see the patients being treated.

The hospital spokesman explained: 'No intensive therapy unit was included in the original design, and that's why it's not as well planned as it might be. It was put in at the last moment and it's true that storage is not adequate. But they do an awful lot of work in there without killing off any of the patients.'

One of the main purely architectural criticisms of the new building is that the external concrete columns stand directly in front of the windows, blocking natural light and obscuring what would be

some fine views of Hampstead. The reason for this seems to be a lack of coordination between the structural engineers, who planned the positioning of the external columns, and the architects, who planned the room layout.

A curious feature on the ground floor is a central concrete yard, containing a wooden bench, but quite inaccessible. It seems peculiarly tantalizing to patients, squatting in elegantly and often uncomfortable in the reception area in small, unyielding plastic chairs, to look out on to this inviting, empty space.

On one side of the courtyard is a wide art gallery, separated by a dividing wall from the outpatients' obstetrics and gynaecology clinic. In the clinic the design has again gone awry. Patients, mainly pregnant, are forced to stand



The Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead: subject of complaints.

because of a shortage of space for them to sit and wait. The architects' plan was for the patients to wait in the individual examining cubicles. But the consultants say this is impracticable, and could be distressing for patients who might have to wait for some time by themselves while the consultants were delayed. (As our first item about the Royal Free showed, it is distressing for patients to have to wait for long periods in any circumstances, either alone or in company.)

Abuse

The hospital man said: 'If patients are standing around it is because there are too many patients booked.' (Again that about something which, as our first story showed, happens often. The hospital is review-

ing its booking arrangements.) Design magazine, the spokesman for the architects was quoted as saying that much of the trouble was due to the staff of the hospital not being able to use the design properly. He criticized laboratory personnel for bringing their old furniture with them, when their spaces had been designed for use with modern furniture. They're used to working in crowded little closets—they seem to like it. But there's no room for anything.'

The hospital spokesman agrees: 'To some extent it's true that the staff don't use the new building properly. They tend to push trolleys hard into swing doors and to bash things around—that sort of thing.'

Certainly nobody can blame the staff for the most obvious defect in the new hospital—long, jagged gaps which have appeared in all the walls made of precast concrete sprayed-plastered Durox slabs. It is standard practice, to provide a trowelled plaster line where a concrete column joins a Durox slab, but this was not done, and the architects and contractors are still quarrelling about whose fault this was.

Cracks

The hospital spokesman points out that the cracks do not indicate a grave structural defect, but concern only the plaster. They can be repaired quite easily, without causing a large upheaval.

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Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

Training for European managers

The European Foundation for Management Development in Brussels, whose membership includes industrial companies and management schools in Europe, is setting up an international committee of distinguished industrialists and academics under the chairmanship of Mr C. C. Pocock, managing director of Shell, to investigate the education and training needs of European managers over the next 10 years. What factors and problems will the committee have to take into account?

During the early part of these years, organizations and their managers will still be looking at most of their activities through national eyes. But as the decade progresses, companies will tend to become more European in outlook and planning, operating in several countries, interchanging staff, products, processes and services. Sub-contracting across frontiers will increase, and decisions will have to be taken on the sharing out of production lines between countries.

Competition with North America and Japan will increase—and perhaps with other countries such as Brazil, where the combination of industrial know-how, cheap labour and an authoritarian political system may give it (in this context) advantages not shared by European countries. Oil and other raw materials will become more expensive and the rising costs will influence the streamlining of techniques, company structures and personnel policies more than during the past 20 years.

The scope for action by companies and their managers may tend to decrease. Governments will become more dirigiste, constricting companies within narrower courses of action. Within the organizations, the increasing power of unions and worker participation will reduce the effective authority of managers who below the top level will be less able to control through the power vested in them by their boards. At the same time the politicization of organizations will gather pace, and they will be more open to pressures from all quarters.

With the new influence of the oil-producing countries, there will be a change in the world's capital markets—and, too, in the relationships between the wealthy but underdeveloped material producing countries, the industrialized

countries, and the non-oil Third World.

Where growth has hitherto been the touchstone of capitalist economic thought, many areas of the world and some sectors of national economies will have to accept the static state of zero growth as a fact of social and economic life and not as a disaster to be avoided by every overt course of action. From this will emerge new political relationships and new social philosophies.

How can European managers be helped to cope with these challenging circumstances over the next 10 years?

1. There will have to be a greater internationalization of management development programmes; opportunities must be provided for career development across frontiers in the early stages of careers. Languages and sensitivity to other cultures will become more important. A brilliant specialist, highly successful in his own country, may find obstacles to the top in the European context without special education and training.

2. In addition to a more methodical planning of careers, companies must be prepared to spend more time on formal training programmes for their managers who will need greater professionalism and knowledge over wider fields, for example, the behaviour of organizations, international politics and so on.

But with the need for more technical innovation which will come with increasing speed, managers will also have to be able to evaluate technological changes translated in terms of new products and processes. Perhaps the principle of sabbatical periods should be adopted by both industry and government.

3. In the training of managers there must surely be a greater emphasis on all that falls within the compass of human relations—relations within industry, the changes that have taken place in the behaviour of individuals and of groups towards corporate organizations and towards work, and the increasingly political characteristics of industrial behaviour.

Within management schools it is time that the labour economists (who have hitherto dominated the field of industrial relations) and the behavioural scientists work more closely together in integrated programmes covering all aspects of the human side of industry.

4. European managers will need to have a much greater

knowledge of economics, micro and macro, than the average manager has today. What are the realities and effects of inflation upon accounting, budgeting, cash flow and so on? The raising of finance, loans—what is the capital availability on the European and international scenes?

5. Although government dirigisme and worker participation will tend to restrict the operating parameters of companies and managements, the size and complexity of industrial organizations will demand a great deal of independent initiative on the part of managers.

A more integrated methodology of management will have to be developed within which managers must be taught to improvise, and in the light of this, management schools will need to take a new look at the field of business policy.

6. New information systems will be developed to speed up the dissemination of information—up, down and laterally—and make it more efficient. Managers must learn to use and control these systems.

7. What is the place of business in society? Industrial managements are becoming more aware of the social responsibilities expected of them, and many managers are bewildered by the increasing responsibilities which they find society (through the media, pressure groups, and so on) is placing upon their shoulders.

There must be much more conceptual thinking and research on the relationship between managements and (a) environmental conservation, (b) pollution, (c) consumerism, (d) the rights of shareholders versus employees versus the public—and where the manager should stand within this sea of conflicting interests.

8. All too little attention has been paid in the past to the articulateness of managers: their ability to state clearly management's case in discussions with union leaders and industry's case in discussions with government officials—and, equally important, to get across to the public at large, through the popular communications media, the important part which industry plays in producing the wealth upon which all other activities and services of a nation depend.

The capitalist structure of western industrialized societies will be under considerable strain during the next decade or two, and one of the most important items in the education and training of European



Mr C. C. Pocock, managing director of Shell.

managers will be the improvement in their ability to communicate logically, accurately and effectively.

9. The already mixed economies of Europe will become more so, and society today demands that public and private organizations cooperate and work more closely together. Industry must deal effectively with every level of official authority—local, regional, national, European, international.

Decisions taken by industry or government at one level will produce waves which can envelop all others. Training projects and programmes bringing managements, private and public, together will be essential.

And so there will be much for the European Foundation's committee to explore. Above all, no doubt, the modern managers' own aspirations and ambitions will be taken into account. Mobility between private industry, non-profit making organizations and government service will tend to increase, and managers will want to ensure that they are equipped to serve in all fields.

Philip Nind, director of the Foundation for Management Education.

North-west ailments need a stronger pill

It so happened that the Government's announcement of its £175m plan to help ease unemployment—and at the same time take some of the steam out of its more vociferous critics during the next few days in Blackpool—came on a day when a number of other, perhaps less significant, items of news appeared in the north-west. Less significant, that is, unless one is faced with redundancies at the Plessey factories on Merseyside or among the 250 workers who learned that day that they are to lose their jobs at a Brown Boveri group plant at Wythenshawe, Manchester, because it is to close.

The Manchester factory makes electronic instruments for the textile industry, and its impending closure is blamed on the "general trade recession", a statement which will surprise no one who is aware of the fact that textile mills in the region have been closing at the rate of one a month over the past year and that the vast majority of the industry's workers have been on more or less permanent short time since last Christmas. And this, by the way, in an industry which little more than a year ago was looking confidently to better times, having by then shed some 36,000 of its workers as a result of rationalization—much of it government-inspired—and consequent closures over the previous five years.

It is then small wonder that the Government's latest measures, rather than any discernible show of optimism, in the north-west—adding to the general tone of reported reaction—in any of the other hard-pressed areas of the country.

In the north-west total unemployment now stands at almost 7 per cent, a figure which conceals much higher totals in places like Merseyside and some parts of north Lancashire. Even in the newly created Greater Manchester area, which because of its many varieties of industrial and commercial activities, has not previously been regarded as a problem zone for unemployment, the percentage of jobless has reached 5.4.

In numerical terms, these figures mean that the north-west is almost 200,000 people out of work. So supposing that the Government's package achieves its objective of creating 100,000 new jobs (and doubts are already being cast on both the figure itself and the time scale in which the measures can be effective); and supposing that the total effort is being concentrated in the north-west region alone, then the effect would be to halve the unemployment rate. And this of course would only be true if at the same time further closures and redundancies were halted.

None of this is the case. The new forms of aid will be spread thinly right across the country, and a great many people in regions like the north-west, having now examined the proposals in detail, judge that in most areas their total effect will not only be marginal but perhaps counterproductive.

Mr Colin Barnett, secretary of the TUC's north-west advisory committee, describes the package as "like offering an aspirin to a man suffering from a brain tumour". The harsh criticism, perhaps, but one which seems to sum up a widely held view in a region which has seen a great many of its hopes shattered during the past months of growing economic recession.

The revenue to the Post Office from this service will fall and the unit cost will increase further because...

From Dr A. D. Manning
Sir, The causes of the failure of our nationalized services to run economically can be exemplified by the GPO's attitude to telephone transfer charges. These are to be increased from 4p to 30p a time. In my own practice, the extra cost is estimated at over £500 pa.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It costs £1,248 a year to train a teenager

From Sir William Mather
Sir, Amongst the incentives offered on Wednesday by the Government to help reduce unemployment amongst school leavers, was a payment of £5 per week for six months for each additional trainee taken on.

There is still, and usually has been, an overall shortage of skilled men in the engineering industry, though there will invariably be some local surpluses.

A subsidised transfer scheme to encourage mobility, as also proposed, should obviously go some way to mitigating this and would benefit both the national economy and the individual concerned, but the overall shortage will remain unless more apprentices are trained.

Under current financial restraints few firms will feel able to afford to train more than their own minimum re-

quirements unless the additional cost is largely met from central funds. The direct cost of training a 16-year-old engineering apprentice in a practical training workshop, including his salary, NHI, materials, power, tools, overalls, and instruction, amounts to at least £24 per week or £1,248 pa. In addition there are the normal overheads of rent, rates, administration etc.

I fear that an offer of £5 per week for six months, or £130, is unlikely to have any practical effect on either reducing unemployment amongst school leavers or increasing the number of skilled men. If it is to be more than an empty political gesture, the real costs must be met.

WILLIAM MATHER,
British Mechanical Engineering Confederation Limited,
112 Jermy Street,
London SW1Y 4UR.

Six-fold merely equals single

From Mr D. J. Tether.
Sir, Some months ago in these columns you printed a number of letters on the topic of 5- and 6-fold trading stamps. When one writer pointed out that a garage he knew gave 10-fold stamps, he missed the point.

The old standard for trading stamps was one stamp for every six pence spent (one for 21p since decimalization). Thus with a 75p gallon of petrol, for example, one would expect to receive 30 stamps. A "Ten Fold" offer would boost this to 300 stamps. However, a new convention has been adopted whereby five stamps per gallon is the norm. This is just one sixth of the original amount; and enables garages to offer bogus bonuses where "6-Fold" equals, in effect, "Single".

As with all other inflationary processes the consumer gets even less for his money. Yours faithfully,
D. J. TETHER,
Mount St Mary's College,
Snickhill,
Sheffield.

Inefficient Post Office illustrates British 'paralysis of response' malady

From Mr David Holbrook
Sir, I am only a self-supporting author, running what is virtually a small business handling my own manuscripts. I have worked in America and Australia, and whenever I come back from abroad I find in England what I can only call "drag", a kind of paralysis of response. I believe that this has been seriously deepened as a malady in our national life by the Post Office, and the government demand that it should be run "economically" as a self-supporting concern, while the Post Office itself has been increasingly inefficient.

Because of the increasing postal rates, people today use the second class service. This means that to write a letter and get a reply takes over a week. But not only that: there is a growing unwillingness to use both the telephone and the postal service, because of the huge costs as they now are. To this we must add the futility of adding complicated codes to the end of every address, on the letter itself, and on the envelope, none of which are used because the machinery is not yet fully operative.

The effect has been to generate a sense of frustration and futility throughout our national life. Increasingly, people do not reply, or reply so late it doesn't matter. Things do not appear, either because they are lost, or because they never get in the envelope, or because it didn't in the end seem worth putting them in the envelope. Spontaneous mail, letters, exploiting ideas, or simply expressing gratitude, or making personal contact, or trying out possibilities, simply no longer exists, because we just can't afford to be free with it. The general feeling is one of loss of morale, and of getting nowhere. Behind the postal paralysis people use the blankness to fall down on payments due, or to delay payments.

The cost of this central mortification of the nervous system of our economy and culture must be astronomical. It is, of course, killing the book trade. The only solution is to reduce postal charges again to a level that makes for efficiency, not in terms of mere post office autonomy (a ridiculous concept anyway) but in terms of the liveliness of the whole system. Yours etc.,
DAVID HOLBROOK,
New Farm House,
Maddingley,
Cambridge,
September 22, 1975.

From Dr A. D. Manning
Sir, The causes of the failure of our nationalized services to run economically can be exemplified by the GPO's attitude to telephone transfer charges. These are to be increased from 4p to 30p a time. In my own practice, the extra cost is estimated at over £500 pa.

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sumers are now turning to alternatives, eg. answering machines.

An enquiry to the telephone service on the subject of alternatives produced only a postcard of acknowledgment. A telephone follow-up by us produced the promise of a visit by a sales representative "some time". However, each of four calls to private companies produced an informed salesman within 24 hours.

Is this not counterproductive? Yours faithfully,
A. D. MANNING,
63 The Drive,
Edgware, Middx.

From Mr C. B. Hindley
Sir, I feel sure that many members of the public must, like me, have been inconvenienced by the Post Office practice of returning letters or packets to the sender a mere six working days after a postman has been unable to effect delivery.

Furthermore, my local post office informs me that no record is made concerning the sender of the letter, so that the would-be recipient is left completely in the dark concerning the source and nature of the letter, while the sender may well assume that the addressee has moved to another address.

Given that several million people take holidays of more than one week each year, very large numbers of communications must be returned to senders at the expense of considerable time and effort on the part of all concerned, and frustration on the part of those attempting to communicate.

Perhaps this practice arose in the days when the only people likely to be away from home for longer than six days were assumed either to have left behind a small band of domestic retainers to hold the fort, or to have disappeared without leaving any trace, perhaps by means of a moonlight flit, or into Her Majesty's custody.

Would it not save a great deal of time, trouble, and expense for all concerned, if undelivered mail were kept at post offices for a month?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN B. HINDLEY,
University of London Institute of Education,
58 Gordon Square,
London WC1H 0NT.

From Mr W. Irving
Sir, There must surely be very few right-thinking people, who would not wholeheartedly support my proposal made by Mr Ian Nisbet.

The spirit of Christmas has been cherished and observed for centuries past, and should certainly be maintained during the gloomy period now prevailing.

The light relief suggested would bring joy and happy memories to a great many, and those engaged in the production of greetings cards, would derive substantial benefit, while the hard-pressed Post Office would surely jump at the certainty of making a "healthy" profit, with which to reduce its deficit, even at the reduced rates suggested, to operate through the last month of the year, which would include the millions of New Year cards particularly popular "over the border".

It is difficult to see anything against the proposal but quite easy to realize the joy and material advantages which would result from its prompt adoption.

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ACROW

Best ever results!

Sales of UK and Overseas Associates exceed, for the first time, the one hundred million pound mark. Exports up 41.64% to £34,291,000

A statement by Mr W. A. de Vignier, Chairman of the Acrow Group



1974 was the best year in Acrow's history. The consolidated profits, before tax, amounted to £5,889,000, an increase of £2,101,000 over the previous year.

Your directors have decided to recommend a final dividend of 1.938745p per share (excluding tax credit).

Why does Acrow remain strong? The principal reasons are greater productivity achieved through the resourcefulness of our team and good labour relations throughout the Group, coupled with product and geographical diversification, giving Acrow the capability of weathering severe economic storms.

Acrow is now the largest British-owned manufacturer of equipment used in the construction industry. We are the leaders—or amongst the leaders—in every market we serve.

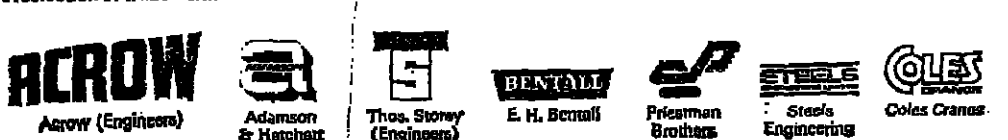
We are now positioned for what I consider to be our most significant growth phase.

Results at a glance

	1975	1974
Turnover	£79,825,000	£60,711,000 up 31.48%
Exports	£34,291,000	£24,210,000 up 41.64%
Profit Before Tax	£ 5,889,000	£ 3,788,000 up 55.46%
Earnings Per Share	8.59p	5.60p up 53.39%
Dividend Per Share (including tax credit)	5.674992p	5.223881p up 8.64%

Acrow (Engineers) Limited South Wharf Rd., London W2 1PB Tel: 01-262 3456 Telex: 21888

A selection of trademarks within the Acrow world organisations



Business appointments Managerial changes for CWS

Mr Gordon Lounsbach has been named general manager of the drinks group of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Mr Graham Watson is to be general manager of the footwear group.

Mr Geoffrey Wheeler has joined the board of the Co-operative Mutual Life Assurance Association.

Mr Leonard G. Lelliott has been appointed to the board of A. J. Mills (Holdings).

Mr Christopher Strong has joined the board of Strong & Hancock (Holdings). Mr F. W. Hancock has retired.

Mr A. R. N. Ratcliffe has been appointed to the board of United Domestics Trust. Mr T. C. Standen and Sir Brian Mountain have resigned.

Mr Christopher Clarke has been made a director of the English National Investment Co.

Mr Peter Cawley, formerly financial director, has been appointed managing director of Osmond Aerocoles. He succeeds Mr Michael Osmond who becomes chairman while remaining managing director of the Talbot

ANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Unfortunate timing for long-awaited Elandsrand issue

As has been a long time but Elandsrand has finally come to market and it is a long time since it has been so well received. Against a backdrop of soaring costs, the national Monetary Fund's gold and silver reserves, and the South African rand, the gold share is not exactly happy.

Gold mining is a long-term business, and Elandsrand has 20 shares of 20 cents each and a share to raise £133m for financing developments. The prospectus says that the gold production will cost £1.50 per ounce, based on 1975 costs, and the issue will cover requirements up to the end of 1977.

As it is next to the gold mine, which was in April, comparisons of the two are inevitable. It is, of course, in passing that the gold share index has risen by more than a fifth since Elandsrand's flotation, a fundamental difference

between the two is that Elandsrand has larger reserves and a higher grade on the Venterdorp Complex Reef (VCR). It may do so, but it does appear to be a solid, long life mine. The prospectus states it is estimated that 66 million tons on the VCR will be available for milling at a recovery grade of 11.8 grams of gold a ton, compared with Deelkraal's 45 million tons at 10.4 grams a ton. This puts both mines in the medium grade band, contrasting for example, with East Driefontein, which has a level of nearly 25 grams a ton.

Gold production is expected to start on the VCR in 1981 at the rate of 45,000 tons a month, building up to 135,000 tons a month early in 1982. The prospectus states it is estimated that a positive cash flow will result from mining operations in 1982 and that profits should continue to be generated for the next 34 years.

The projected costs of bringing the mine to production are

Mining

certain to be far exceeded because no account has been taken of inflation. In addition, the recent devaluation has added another factor to the equation. South Africa is dependent on imports for much of her capital equipment, which will now be about a fifth more expensive than when the technical advisers' report on the new mine was drawn up.

Shares in the new mine, part of Anglo American Corporation, which is underwriting the issue, will not come directly on to the market, but are going to the three mines which put up the land for the new venture. Western Deep Levels, which is under 20 per cent, Western Ultra Deep Levels more than 70 per cent and Witwatersrand Deep 9.5 per cent.

All three mines are passing their allocations on to shareholders, but Gold Fields of South Africa, which will receive a net 15 per cent through Witwatersrand and Ultra Deep, has implied that it will not pass on its entitlement.

The level of support which the offer attracts will provide a good pointer to long-term views on gold and mining shares, given the current parlous state of the gold mine share market.

Australian stake

After the diverse fulminations of Mr Rex Connor, Australian Minerals Minister, on the subject of foreign participation in the country's mining industry, it was refreshing last week to hear Mr Gough Whitlam, the Prime Minister, trying to set the record straight in a resigned fashion, even if what he said was not exactly new.

While it is understandable that Mr Whitlam should seek at least 50 per cent local participation in mining projects, it is

not always quite so easy to achieve. For a start, the Government does not have the resources to put up the necessary cash and, even if it did, the anti-state (any state) involvement faction would doubtless consider that a positive hindrance.

Nor can the private investor necessarily be relied upon to put up the money. As with the Government it is not always the case that the money is available and, when it is, local investors are not always prepared to put up the venture capital required in the knowledge that it will be several years before there is any return on the capital employed.

Mr Whitlam left several important questions in the air, such as government policy towards the exploitation and sale of certain minerals. Additionally, he did not deal with some of the burdens facing mining companies.

Desmond Quigley

Some feet-on-the-ground views on the shape of a new cocoa pact

Having declared that it will subject to approval by Congress, the new International Tin Agreement, the United States has now said that it will give full consideration to joining the international cocoa agreement which a United Nations conference has begun negotiating in Geneva.

Although the United States delegate, Mr Thomas O'Donnell, added cautious riders to the statement and reiterated the official American line, that this agreement, like others, should not be disruptive to fundamental market forces and established trade practices, it seems clear that the section of American opinion, headed by the State Department, which would like to see the United States playing a full and active part in commodity agreements is gaining ground.

Up to now the role of the United States has been rather like that of a referee, running up and down the field without a pea in his whistle: an expert on what should be done but quite unable to exert decisive influence on the game.

Some feet-on-the-ground views price fluctuations in the past, the conference by Dr Albert Viton, chief of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Sugar, Beverage and Horticulture Service. He said that what was important was the price which triggered and set in motion quota reductions, on one side, the price at which restrictions on exports were to be removed and, on the other, the price at which the buffer stock were to commence.

In his view, instead of worrying about a so-called "minimum" price, attention should be concentrated on the maximum price objective, which the quota mechanism must and should be made to defend. He pointed out that the concepts of minimum and maximum prices were removed from the 1968 sugar agreement to good advantage.

He added a warning that great care had been year-to-year price fluctuations in the past, these would be wider still in the absence of an agreement and because in the absence of price assurances, production was not likely to increase at a rate sufficient to make possible substantial stock reductions.

Therefore the market would

Commodities

hang on the vagaries of the weather and prices would fluctuate accordingly.

The threat of excessively high prices was not likely to stimulate investment in consumption expansion. On the other hand, fears of price collapse were bound to hold back investment in long-term expansion of production.

Long-term production expansion would be best brought about by an assurance of reasonable prices which an agreement could give. This was also the cheapest way for consumers. If an agreement with realistic prices was good for producing countries, it might be essential for consumers to secure a steady expansion of production.

Provisions for regular consultation on production policies and stocks, on the basis of data assembled by the secretariat, should be part of the agreement system, as should be consultations on measures to expand consumption.

After producing rubber market reports for 13 years on behalf of his company, Mr Percy Glazer, managing director of Lewis & Peat (Rubber) Ltd, is breaking new ground—cautiously.

Up to now the reports have been issued on an impartial basis, with the exception of comments on futures market trends. But as leading merchant and one of the oldest to the business, Lewis & Peat are receiving requests both from the United Kingdom and overseas, for opinions and market views regarding consumption and price. Mr Glazer points out that with world economies under pressure, the industry is looking for opinions.

So, with due restraint, Mr Glazer has, in his latest report, begun to respond. He says that an estimation, for what it is worth, would indicate that with few exceptions the demand for natural rubber is possibly between 30 and 40 per cent lower than in previous years. Consequently, statistically, the rubber market should not remain bullish.

Manufacturers are hesitating to buy forward requirements

and equally producers are reluctant to sell more than current plus one month ahead. The main concern is that of sterling, which continues to drift downwards with its consequential effect on the actual price of rubber in terms of rates of exchange alone.

The report recalls that the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) has postponed its next attempt to formulate an international rubber buffer stock agreement, probably on account of Rangoon, and the next meeting will probably be in Bangkok during mid-November.

Although the five countries concerned—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Sri Lanka—reached an agreement earlier in the year on an idea for a joint 100,000-tonne buffer stock and price stabilization scheme, there are numerous points which remain undecided.

"The major stumbling block is a dispute over where the proposed buffer stock should be centrally held and managed. Whilst Malaysia favours centralized management, Indonesia prefers to maintain a degree of autonomy over its stockpile contribution. Furthermore, there were reservations about the cost."

After commenting that congestion at numerous ports throughout the world is continuing to cause havoc with shipping schedules and rates, Mr Glazer continues: "Until there is a body able to forecast a more accurate 'turn-round' of world trade, manufacturers are advised not to over-buy but to maintain reasonable month-to-month stocks and purchase only sufficient for their own contractual requirements."

"On the one hand we are rightly expected to pay producing countries a fair price for our imports of raw rubber, yet, on the other hand, with an inflated United Kingdom consumption of 165,500 tonnes in 1974, it is not difficult to calculate the effect to our balance of payments and factory production costs if there were to be any substantial increase in the price of natural rubber. Unless it is matched by an equivalent increase in the level of industrial production and exports."

Wallace Jackson
Commodities Editor

Euromarkets

market performance of Eurodollar offerings is generally good. The two main factors will switch to other currencies to obtain better overall, Imran Voima Finnish utility, and the Supply Commission of South Africa, are dollars in unusually low offerings, according to Jones.

Bank is leading a syndicate of mostly Opec institutions have replaced 80 per cent of the \$25m, five year notes. This leaves a balance of the 9.75 per cent government-guaranteed bonds marketed elsewhere.

35COM offering, which is to be formally sold by Kilder, Leobold and Co, a \$30m of eight year notes, 10.25 per cent, a key feature being a bondholders option the notes redeemed at October 1978. This feature is of capital loss the issue equivalent to 10 years.

The dollar sector is sour, underwriters concentrating on Canadian issues, for which demand has been quite a syndicate led by Moric International has sold a \$50m, six year note, bearing 9.5 per cent.

same terms have been sold by the province of Ontario. The Quebec Hydro is being led by Union of Switzerland (Securities). Both issues will be sold October 3.

issues of General Motors

Acceptance Corporation of the United States, which is guaranteeing the issue of its Canadian subsidiary, have been rated "AAA" by one agency and "AA" by another.

Debt issues of Quebec province are "AAA" rated by agencies. This makes the two offerings of comparable quality but the combined \$100m amount is relatively large, some observers believe.

Nevertheless, the three prior Canadian Eurodollar offerings were increased in size because of strong investment demand. Some European bankers assert that the Canadian dollar will eventually appreciate against the United States dollar. Since Canadian issues yield more than comparable Eurodollar issues, there is an added inducement to buy Canadian dollar offerings, it is argued.

Wood Gundy is expected to schedule shortly a \$30m note offering of Noranda Mines, which will give investors an option of subscribing in either United States or Canadian dollars.

However, since the coupon rate and other terms will be the same regardless of the currency, investors presumably will opt for United States dollars. This is because the extra yield advantage of a Canadian dollar issue would be absent.

Also scheduled for offering is a 25 million-Eurodollar unit of account issue of 10-year bonds bearing 9.25 per cent by the city of Oslo through a Kredietbank SA Luxembourgise syndicate and a \$80m French franc, five year note issue bearing 10.25 per cent of Creusot-Loire, the French steel concern, through a Banque de l'Union Europeenne syndicate.

While the unit of account bonds have a longer maturity than is currently popular, sinking fund starting in 1976 will reduce the average life to 7.1 years. Payment is in guilders at 3.35507 per unit, making the issue equivalent to \$30.8m.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHTS	Offer	Redemp	Yield	Premium
Alcoa 10% 1981	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1982	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1983	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1984	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1985	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1986	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1987	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1988	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1989	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1990	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1991	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1992	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1993	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1994	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1995	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1996	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1997	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1998	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 1999	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2000	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2001	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2002	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2003	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2004	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2005	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2006	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2007	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2008	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2009	100	100	10.15	0.15
Alcoa 10% 2010	100	100	10.15	0.15

Freight report

Opec's decision to raise oil prices by 10 per cent has come as a blow to tanker freight markets, where a much smaller increase had been expected.

Both charterers and owners have now missed the opportunity to gain from hedging operations and there will probably be a fall in chartering activity as companies delay taking the more expensive oil until the last minute.

Longer-term the 10 per cent increase is not thought likely to hold up the recovery in world economies to any great extent. Brokers here would not be surprised if chartering began to pick up.

Meanwhile, the dry cargo trades looked very hesitant throughout the week, hampered by the delays surrounding the Suez Canal, and rumours that the Japanese were seeking to reduce coal and ore stockpiles by cutting back on imports.

The underlying tone, however, was still fairly good, bolstered by an official United States estimate that Russia and East European countries would need to import 37.5 million tons of grain in the next year.

Craig Howard

Unit Trust Prices-change on the week

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Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS - Dealings Began Sept 22. Dealings End Oct 3. Contango Day, Oct 6. Settlement Day, Oct 14.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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